DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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consider the neutralization of Germany, etc., should be accepted by us if it could be negotiated. I think he was alone in this view, but there is no question of the interest aroused throughout Western Europe by the Kennan thesis. Lasky's reasoning was 1) The USSR has no intention of attacking Western Europe militarily, 2) A withdrawal of foreign troops from Germany would give the satellites greater freedom. However, he felt one cannot trust the Soviets to adhere to an agreement.

Saturday, December 28, 1957

[redacted]

We had for some time, because of intelligence reports from usually reliable sources, expected a declaration before New Year's Day of the take-over by the GDR of certain functions previously exercised by the Soviets. It came this afternoon in the form of a letter, dated today, addressed to the U. S. Consul, from H. Boehm "Chief of Consular Affairs Division, GDR Foreign Ministry". The

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of newspaper curiosity and cables. Willy Brandt lunched with me. He is bored with the trouble caused him by the Kampfgruppen,

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We had a genial time. I reported on two matters as follows:

BEGIN QUOTE

CONFIDENTIAL

SENT TO DEPARTMENT 767, RPTD INFO BONN 706

FROM BRUCE

In conversation today with Willy Brandt, commenting on his views re voting rights for Berlin representatives in Bundestag and Bundesrat, I remarked:

1. In view actual situation and difficulties in Berlin our Government most unlikely to change its position certainly at present time.

2. I had not discussed matter with Federal Government officials, British or French, and had no recent personal knowledge of their attitudes.

3. Although we sympathized basically with desire of Berliners to have voice in enactment of legislation directly affecting them, we think it inopportune to raise such controversial issue at this juncture.

Brandt, somewhat to my surprise, did not devote much conversation to the subject. He said von Brentano had in November offered

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